

Ishpeming

**Area
Historical
Society &
Museum**

SPRING 2018

Edited by
Karen Kasper

Nancy DeCaire

Nancy first started volunteering several years ago as a docent for the museum, Thursday afternoons being her regular time. She quickly became a trustee on the board and then moved into the vice president slot. She was passionate about the Historical Society and helped with the Historic Places and Interesting Spaces tours as well as with other projects. Even after she had her stroke and was in the nursing home, she continued on as the vice-president. She will be missed and her shoes will be hard to fill.

We wish to thank all the people who sent memorial donations in her memory.

Spring/Summer Schedule

The museum is open Mondays 10-4 through May. June, July, and August the museum is open Thursdays and Fridays, 10-4, to accommodate residents and visitors. In the fall, September and October, when life slows down, the museum will be open Mondays, 10-4. If you or your visitors want to visit the museum on an alternate day or time, please contact us either by Facebook or phone, and we'll work with you to set up an appointment.

Upcoming Events

We will have a cemetery tour this summer. It will be different from last year's tour in several ways. First of all, it will be a walking tour. It will also be given multiple times during the summer, will cost \$5 per person and will be a fundraiser for the society. There will be a tour on the afternoon of July 3rd and also one on the afternoon of July 4th, although the time is still TBD. We will also do the tour at other times during the summer.

Our Historic Places and Interesting Spaces tour is taking shape. We will have the tour this fall, probably in early September. For both events, watch our Facebook page for more information.

Become a Member

For just \$10 a year, you can become a member of the Historical Society and help support our mission of preserving the history of Ishpeming. Remember that your membership is good for one year and must be renewed every year. If it has been several years since you've paid for your membership, consider renewing today.

Ishpeming Area Historical Society Board

President— David Aeh
Vice President— Karen Kasper
Secretary— Elizabeth Firby
Treasurer— Sandee Smetana
Trustees—Connie Pepin, Jodi
Firby and vacant

Ishpeming Memories

By Mabel Smedberg Dorenbos

I was born on November 30, 1903 at 617 Iron St in Ishpeming, Michigan. Dr. VanDeventer delivered me. He lived in the house directly across the street from the Ishpeming Public Library. I was a healthy baby and weighed about seven pounds. My father was working in Iron River or Iron Mountain at his carpentry trade when I was born. He used to tease me and say that he was not sure the doctor had left the right baby.

My mother was Emma Olsen Smedberg and my father was Andrew Smedberg. I was the sixth of seven children. Three boys and four girls.

Our house had three rooms downstairs and three upstairs with a basement we called a cellar. It had a big yard with a picket fence all the way around. The bathroom was an out-house until I was five or six years old. Heat was provided by base burners upstairs and downstairs with a wood cook stove in the kitchen. The room my sisters and I shared seemed very big to me. My older sisters, Ellen and Lyda, slept in a double bed. My sister Emily and I slept in a standing folding bed that was opened each night.

My father would help the younger children get ready for bed. He would say "Come nu unger." Come now youngsters. He would open the folding bed and help us take the knots out of our shoe laces. Also in the evening Pa would read the Swedish Tribune to my mother while she sat and knitted. When Pa went uptown on a Saturday to get a hair cut, he would bring home a bag of peppermints or peanut brittle.

My mother was always baking, sewing or knitting. She looked so nice when she combed her hair, put on a fresh apron and went over to see Mrs. Nelson. Ma would use the carpet loom the Nelson's had in their barn. Ma made head cheese and sand cheese. Our cookie jar was always full. She made potato sausage and rolled sausage which was rolled in cheese cloth and aged in salt water. Ma sewed all our clothes, even coats and hats, underwear and night wear. She knit socks for all the children and our father. With her crochet hook she made lace for pillow cases, curtains and crocheted whole bedspreads.

My father was also always busy working. When there was no work in Ishpeming, he would go out of town to work. He was a good carpenter. I remember him reading blue prints with Mr. Walmer, the contractor. Pa was always the foreman but he worked with the men. As a sideline he made furniture. The children turned the big wheel on the lathe. When his four daughters became adults, he made each of them a library table, a cedar chest and a sewing cabinet with three drawers and side storage compartments.

My favorite toy was a doll. Dolly would disappear a few weeks before Christmas and return Christmas morning with a new dress and often a new head. I remember receiving pretty hair ribbons for my birthdays and a music box given to me by my father. He also gave me a pretty shell that was all polished and bright. I treasured a china shoe that was given to me by my Sunday School teacher, Maude Gustafson of the Swedish Covenant Church.

A favorite story was the story about Jesus and the children and enjoyed reading all the Campfire Girls and the Elsie Dinsmore books. The favorite game my brothers and sisters played was a card game called Pit. It was a noisy game that required a lot of shouting and laughing.



Other favorite games were Checkers and Jacks. I was very good at Jacks. Outdoor games were jumping rope, roller skating and Run Sheep Run. I was closest to my older sister Emily and my younger brother George. We would construct little houses with gunny sacks next to our back door on Iron Street.

We rarely saw a movie when I was growing up which were all silent. Movies were considered sinful. If I ever had any money, I would spend it on trinkets from the dime store or on candy.

I used to hide treasures like gum or a pretty stone or button in one of the drawers of our large wooden kitchen cabinet. Each of the younger children had their own special drawer.

My two older sisters, Ellen and Luda, were given piano lessons. There was not enough money for lessons for me. I would listen to the piano teacher as she taught Ellen and Lyda and I taught myself how to play the piano.

Some of my childhood friends were Elsie Randell, Annna Brytenson and Dagmar Augustson. Dagmar and I went to Sunday School together at the Swedish Covenant Church on Third St near the railroad tracks.

Traveling photographers would come to our house and ask Mother if she wanted the children's pictures taken. A date and time was set, and the children would be dressed and ready. The pictures were taken in the yard in summer time. Most of the neighbors would have their children's pictures taken.

Our neighbors were the Nelsons, the Rittories and the Bodines. The Nelson family lived on the corner of Third and Iron Streets. One day Mr. Nelson went away and never came back. Mrs. Nelson had to raise her four boys and one girl by herself.

My family always had a cat that we called Kitty or Cat. We also had a cow that we called Daisy. I thought she had a pretty face. My mother could milk cows. She would use the milk in cooking and she was pretty good at making cheese. Of course the children drank the milk and the adults used milk or cream in their coffee.

We did not do much during summer vacations. We learned to sew, embroider, crochet and knit. We went on picnics, went blueberry picking and spent many hours going to the library. We thought it was fun to walk out to the Francen farm. They were people who went to our church. There were five children, Ruth Esther, Edith, Paul and Florence. Paul was my age, but a very shy country boy who disappeared when company came. We used to swing and laugh a lot. Edith was funny. We slept overnight in the hay loft on top of blankets. We did not get much sleep.

At the end of my summer vacation when I was nine years old I went picking daisies with my sister Emily and her friend Emmy Lou Carlson. This was two weeks before I started fourth grade. There was a cow in the next field and she came too close to the fence where I was gathering flowers. I was scared and tripped and fell, breaking my arm. Emily said I fell over a blade of grass. We didn't tell Ma but went to the bathroom and rubbed ointment on the arm. I finally told Ma. She and I walked a long way to the hospital. The doctor bent my arm to put it in place. I got as white as a sheet. I had to wear boards and a sling for six weeks.

I attended the High Street School from 1909 to 1914. The Grammer School in 1915 for fifth grade. Sixth grade was taught in the High Street School and for seventh and eighth I went back to the Grammar School. I loved Miss Earl my kindergarten teacher. Other favorite teachers were Miss Lacey my sixth grade teacher and Miss McLaughten my seventh and eighth grade teacher. They were good teachers. My favorite subjects were arithmetic, drawing and geography. In seventh and eighth grade we went to the High School for sewing classes. In eighth grade we also went there one day a week for cooking classes. After school I went home and studied and helped my mother. My chores were washing and dry-

ing dishes and dusting.

I attended Ishpeming High School, located on Division St. One of my favorite teachers was Miss Blanchard. She was nice and treated everyone the same. Everyone loved her. Miss Stone, my music teacher, was pretty and lively, just the way a music teacher should be. I also liked Miss Ray, the drawing teacher. She was old but she was nice to everybody. I did not like my geometry teacher because he was sloppy and his suits were spotted.

I didn't like grammar and writing themes. My sister Emily would help me with my themes. I did like algebra and biology.

We did not have any sports in high school. The boys had basketball games but the girls did not. During my high school years I would skate on the city pond with my friend Dagmar or my sisters. My brother George and I would ski in a field north and west of our Iron St home.

I did belong to the Audubon Society, the Literary Society and the Girls Glee Club. The students in the literary society were divided into groups and each month one group would present a program. I enjoyed the girls glee and I also sang in a double quartet. I was an alto.

One of the most admired students in my class was John Voelker because he had a good personality. He became a famous writer.

I did not date in high school. Most of the girls did not date and my older sisters did not date.

During the summer of 1920 when I was almost eighteen years old I worked at the Gossard factory. I was a front stripper, which meant I sewed tape on bras that hooked in the front. My picture was in the Gossard magazine because I had "gone over the top." I put more front strips on bras than anyone else. My salary was \$12.00 or \$15.00 a week. I liked working there.

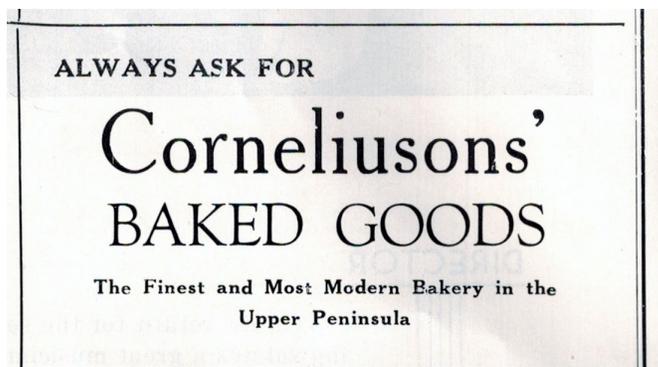
Besides my parents and my favorite teachers, the adults who influenced my most were members of the Swedish Covenant Church. One was my Sunday School teacher Mrs. Skoglund and Anna Quaal. Miss Quaal took charge of many church programs. When she was "old" she married a Mr. Anderson. The older I became the younger the age forty became.

In the 1920s my father built the large house at 1302 N. Third St. The family felt fortunate to live in such a lovely home I left Ishpeming in 1922 to enter nurses training at Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago, Ill. I graduated with my R.N. Degree in 1925.

Thank You

We extend a big THANK YOU to Ralph's Deli and Huron Mountain Bakery, the two Ishpeming businesses who generously donated gift certificates to the Superiorland Alliance Passport grand prize. The winner of the grand prize visited all participating Marquette County museums during a period of 18 months and submitted a stamped, completed passport. The grand prize was a basket full of restaurant certificates for eateries throughout the county. Though the contest has ended, the passports listing all of the participating museums are still available at our museum.

The ad for Coneliuson's comes from a 1940 program for an appearance by the US Navy Band.



100 Years Ago

Northwestern Is Paid For Lost Coal

Ishpeming Families Have Settled Claims of Railway Company

More than twenty families living within a short distance of the Chicago & Northwestern tracks, particularly in the vicinity of the round house in the western end of the yards, have paid the company with something over \$300 for coal stolen from the company's cars last winter, and previously. Some paid as high as \$25, others \$10, or \$5, according to the quantity of coal that the officials of the road found they had taken from the cars.

The request to make good or submit to arrest was a complete surprise to the guilty parties and none of them tried to deny that they were guilty, as the company "had the goods" on them. A detective worked in the shops the greater part of the winter and saw the coal leaving the cars, keeping tab of about the quantity the people were carrying away, etc.. The guilty parties never suspected they were being watched, and the coal lifting habit became so contagious that many of them would go to the cars in daylight and help themselves.

Some of the parties even came around to the round house and complained that the coal that they were carrying away lately was not of as good quality as that which they had 'received' early in the winter, and actually suggested that the company send along coal of better grade. The detective heard the complaints of some of the "kickers" and he had the time of his life working on the case, as it was a cinch to get the guilty ones.

Some of those who had been helping themselves to the company's coal so long really thought they had a right to it, and they became rather bold and would not take the advice of employees to leave the fuel alone. Every family whose name the detective reported to the officials as guilty, has settled according to the amount assessed, or recommended by the man who procured the evidence against them.

It is thought that this will settle coal "lifting" activities in that vicinity, but there are others the officials are after, in another part of the city. The Northwestern has suffered heavy losses for years past through the thieving of coal, as well as other goods standing in the cars either waiting unloading here, or transferring to other points. Many box cars have been broken into and merchandise carried away in the packages in which they were shipped.

Mining Journal, April, 5, 1918.

Volunteers

The lifeblood of any non-profit organization is their volunteers. We are always looking for more volunteers. We can always use people willing to man the front desk and keep our museum open. Training is provided. If you can't do a weekly shift, maybe you can fill in for one of our regulars.

We are also looking for a secretary and a trustee for our board. You would need to attend our monthly board meetings and the secretary would also need to take the minutes and put together the agenda. Leave us a message on our Facebook page if you are interested.

Important Men of Ishpeming—1899

In the September 2, 1899 issue of the Iron Ore, George Newett published a number of articles on the businesses around Ishpeming at the time.

Sellwood & Co, General Merchandise

One of the largest and leading of the many mercantile houses of this section is that of Sellwood & Co., who have just cause to feel proud of the success they have achieved in establishing themselves in such a prominent position in connection with the trade of this locality. The premises occupied embrace two stores which are utilized for the displaying of one of the finest and most varied stocks to be found on this peninsula. The dry goods department is ably managed by Mr. W.S. Nelson, and here can be found all that is best in European and American productions in dry goods, notions, cloaks, furnishing goods, carpets, curtains and the like, while in the grocery department, which is successfully conducted by Mr. R. Matthews, will be found full and complete lines of pure and fancy staple groceries, teas, coffees, spices, flours, provisions and good things to eat generally.

These stocks are kept replenished with frequent importations of the best goods and they afford an opportunity for selections rarely outside of the greatest markets of the country. No old or out-of-style goods are allowed to accumulate; the 'one price' system is adhered to, and bottom prices are quoted on all articles handled, the result being that everyone is sure of getting full value for every dollar expended. This business was established twenty years ago, and the proprietors have such an excellent reputation for sterling integrity and honorable commercial methods as to well deserve the high esteem in which they are held.

Thos J. Mudge, Household Goods, Furniture, Etc.

One of the noteworthy and reliable business houses of this section is that of Mr. Thos. J. Mudge at 118 Pearl St. He began here originally 8 years ago, but later spent 3 years in Calumet, and then started up here again. He carries nice and complete lines of household goods, furniture, stoves, steel ranges, picture framings, etc. and is also agent for the New Home Sewing Machines.

Purchasers of furniture naturally turn to this house to have their wants supplied, as they are sure to get solid and substantial goods at a fair price. Mr. Mudge does not allow any trashy goods to encumber his floors, and he will always be found prompt and courteous in attending to wants of patrons. Mr. Mudge is a substantial and upright citizen and will maintain his establishment's reputation for superiority in its line.

Martin Skauge, Sample Room

May 1st, last, witnessed the opening of this highly respectable and first class resort of Mr. Martin Skauge at 221 Cleveland Ave, and ever since it has been favorably regarded and liberally patronized by the public. He has those favorites, Marquette and Menominee beers, as well as the most celebrated wines, cordials, whiskies and cigars, and everything about his place is so well managed as to attract a most desirable class of patronage. Mr. Skauge was formerly employed as a miner, is very popular with his fellow men, and his venture is meeting with great success.

Become a member

Ishpeming Area Historical Society

The Ishpeming Area Historical Society is a 501(c)3 Michigan Non-Profit Organization
Our mission is to promote and encourage a better appreciation for and a sustained interest
in the history of the Ishpeming area. Your membership allows us to carry out this mission.

Yearly membership (Renewable January 1st)

\$5 Student (high school-College)

\$10 Individual

\$20 Family (One household)

\$25 Non Profit Business

\$35 Business

\$200 Lifetime Individual or Family, \$250 Lifetime Business

Additional donation _____

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

In memory/honor of (if applicable) _____

I do NOT wish my name to be used in any publicity or on a membership plaque.

Is this a New Membership Renewal Membership

Is this address my/our year round address? If not, what months do I/we reside here?

(We send out newsletters in the spring and fall.)

Mail completed form and payment to:

Ishpeming Area Historical Society

308 Cleveland Ave, Ste 303

Ishpeming, MI 49849

Ishpeming Area Historical Society
308 Cleveland Ave
Ishpeming, MI 49849
ishphistory@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook also
(906) 236-0042

ISHPEMING
AREA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



The Spring 2018 newsletter is sponsored in part by the
Globe and also in part by a generous donation in
memory of both Kevin Bannon and Nancy DeCaire.

